

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended)      A system for ordering a custom official postal stamp, comprising:  
a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for display on said display device and allowing customizing and ordering of an official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system wherein the user provides an image for incorporation as an integral part of said official postal stamp.
2. (Original)    A system according to claim 1 wherein said at least one remote ordering system comprises a microprocessor having communication software.
3. (Original)    A system according to claim 2 wherein said at least one remote ordering system comprises a personal computer.
4. (Previously Presented)    A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes instructions on how to modify an image for use on a postal stamp or for ordering said customized official postal stamp.
5.      Cancelled
6. (Previously Presented)    A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes a list of acceptable criteria for image content of images that can be used on said custom official postal stamp.

7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes a selection menu for allowing selection of a prestored image for use on said custom official postal stamp.

8. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes a computer program for allowing ~~allows~~ the uploading of a custom image from said remote ordering system.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 7 wherein said computer program further includes means for allowing customizing of said prestored image at said at least one remote ordering system.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 8 wherein said computer program further includes means for customizing of said custom image.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said customizing of said prestored image includes the capability of selecting and/or modifying the shape, size, color, or orientation of said prestored image.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 10 wherein said customizing of said custom image includes the capability of selecting and/or modifying the shape, size, color, or orientation of said custom image.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9 wherein said customizing of said prestored image further includes the providing of text on said custom official postal stamp.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9 wherein said customizing of said custom image further includes the providing of text on said custom official postal stamp.

15. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information further includes providing a selection of a denomination from a predefined schedule of postal rates for said custom official postal stamp.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 15 wherein said computer program includes automatic means for modifying said selection of a denomination in accordance with revised postal rates.

17. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes an electronic order form for completion at said remote ordering system and electronically returning electronic order form to said central authorizing computer system.

18. (currently amended) A system according to claim 17 wherein said computer program provides notification to said at least one remote ordering system when an electronic order on said order form has been properly or improperly filled in.

19. (currently amended) A system according to claim 18 wherein said electronic order form includes means for providing payment for said custom official postal stamp.

20. (currently amended) A system according to claim 17 wherein said electronic order form includes information regarding contact means for allowing contacting of the originator of the order.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 17 wherein said means includes one of the following: phone number, address, e-mail address.

22. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said computer program further includes means for creating a receipt of said electronic order form.

23. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 22 wherein said receipt includes one or more of the following: customer order identification, order information, facsimile of the image to be used on the custom official postal stamp.

24. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said computer program further comprises means for notifying said remote ordering system over said communication network that the image submitted by said user has been authorized for use on said custom official postal stamp.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 24 wherein said authorization system comprises a verification computer system for entering of an identification number provided by said receipt for verifying acceptance or rejection of the order.

26. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 further comprising a printing device for printing said custom official postal stamp by said authorizing computer system.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A system according to claim 8 wherein a portion of the custom image is combined with a prestored image.

29. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 6 further comprising means for manipulation of the image for use on said official postal stamp.

30. (Original) A system according to claim 29 wherein said means for manipulation of said image comprises at least one selection button for incrementally moving the image a predetermined incremental amount in at least one direction.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 30 wherein said incremental amount comprises an amount from about 1% to about 5% of the size of said image.

32. (currently amended) A method for ordering a custom official postal stamp having a customized image thereon, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a central authorizing computer system for communication with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network;
- b) providing said central authorizing computer system with a computer program for providing information to said at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp for allowing ordering of a custom official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system wherein the user provides an image for incorporation as an integral part of said official postal stamp; and
- c) ordering of said custom official postal stamp at said at least one remote ordering system based on instructions and user selections options provided by central authorizing computer system display on said display device and entered on said data entry means.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 32 wherein said various instructions and/or selections includes an electronic order form, further comprising the step of:

filling out said electronic order form and electronically returning said electronic order form to said central authorizing computer system.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 34 further comprising the step of:

providing an electronic receipt to said at least one remote ordering system by said central authorizing computer system.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35 wherein said electronic receipt includes one or more of the following: customer order identification, order information, facsimile of the image to be used on the customized official postal stamp.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 32 further comprising the step of:

reviewing a custom image at said remote computer system prior to uploading said custom image to said central authorizing computer system.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 32 further providing the step of:

uploading a custom image from said remote ordering system to said central authorizing computer system.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 further comprising the step of:

obtaining approval to use said image on said custom official postal stamp from said central authorizing computer system.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34 further comprising the step of:

printing said custom official postal stamp in accordance with said electronic order form after obtaining approval from said central authorizing computer system.

41. (Original) A method according to claim 39 further comprising the step of:

accessing said central authorizing computer to determine if approval to use said image has been obtained.

42. (currently amended) A computer software product for use in ordering custom official postal stamp, comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program for use in a central authorizing computer system capable of communication with at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp over a communication network, said computer software product which when loaded into authorizing computer system causes the authorizing computer system to perform the step of:

providing said central authorizing computer system with a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for display on said display device and allowing ordering of custom official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system wherein the user provides an image for incorporation as an integral part of said official postal stamp.

43. (Previously Presented) A computer software product according to claim 42 wherein the computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

ordering of said custom official postal stamp at said at least one remote ordering system based on instructions and selections provided by central authorizing computer system.

44. (Original) A computer software product according to claim 43 wherein said computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

providing an electronic receipt to said at least one remote ordering system by said central authorizing computer system.

45. (Previously Presented) A computer software product according to claim 42 wherein the computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

allowing said remote computer system to customize images for use in custom official postal stamps.

46. (Previously Presented) A computer software product according to claim 44 wherein said electronic receipt includes one or more of the following: customer order identification, order information, facsimile of the image to be used on the customized official postal stamp.

47. (Original) A computer software product according to claim 42 wherein the computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

reviewing a custom image at said remote computer system prior to uploading said custom image to said central authorizing computer system.

48. (Previously Presented) A computer software product according to claim 42 wherein the computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

uploading a custom image from said remote ordering system to said central authorizing computer system in order to obtain approval to use said image on said customized official postal stamp.

49. (currently amended) A system for ordering customized official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system by a user for display on said display device and allowing custom modification of an image for incorporation as an integral part of said customized official postal stamp and for ordering of said customized official postal stamp.

50. (currently amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for display on said display device and allowing customizing of an customized official postal stamp from said at least one remote ordering system, and means for manipulation of the image for incorporation as an integral part of said customized official postal stamp and for ordering of said customized official postal stamp.



51. (Original) A system according to claim 50 wherein said means for manipulation of said image comprises at least one selection button for incrementally moving the image a predetermined incremental amount in at least one direction.

52. (currently amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for display on said display device and allowing customizing of an official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system, means for manipulation of the image by the user for incorporation as an integral part of a custom official postal stamp, for placement of an order with said essential authorizing computer, and means for producing an order receipt of said order of said custom postal stamp, said receipt having a identification bar code thereon.

53. (Original) A system according to claim 52 wherein said system further includes a reader for reading said identification bar code so as to provide the status of said order.

54. (currently amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for display on said display device and allowing customizing and ordering of an official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system, said central authorizing computer system having at least one image provided by said user that can be incorporated as an integral part of a custom official postal stamp, means for

manipulation or use of at least a portion of the prestored image for use on said custom official postal stamp.

55. (currently amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system having a display device and data entry means for ordering a custom official postal stamp over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for display on said display device and allowing a user to customize and order an official postal stamp from said at least one remote ordering system, said central authorizing computer system having at least one prestored image that is integrally incorporated as a part of a custom official postal stamp, means for using at least a portion of the prestored image for use on said custom official postal stamp thereby eliminating the need to obtain content approval before producing of said official postal stamp.